



STARRING

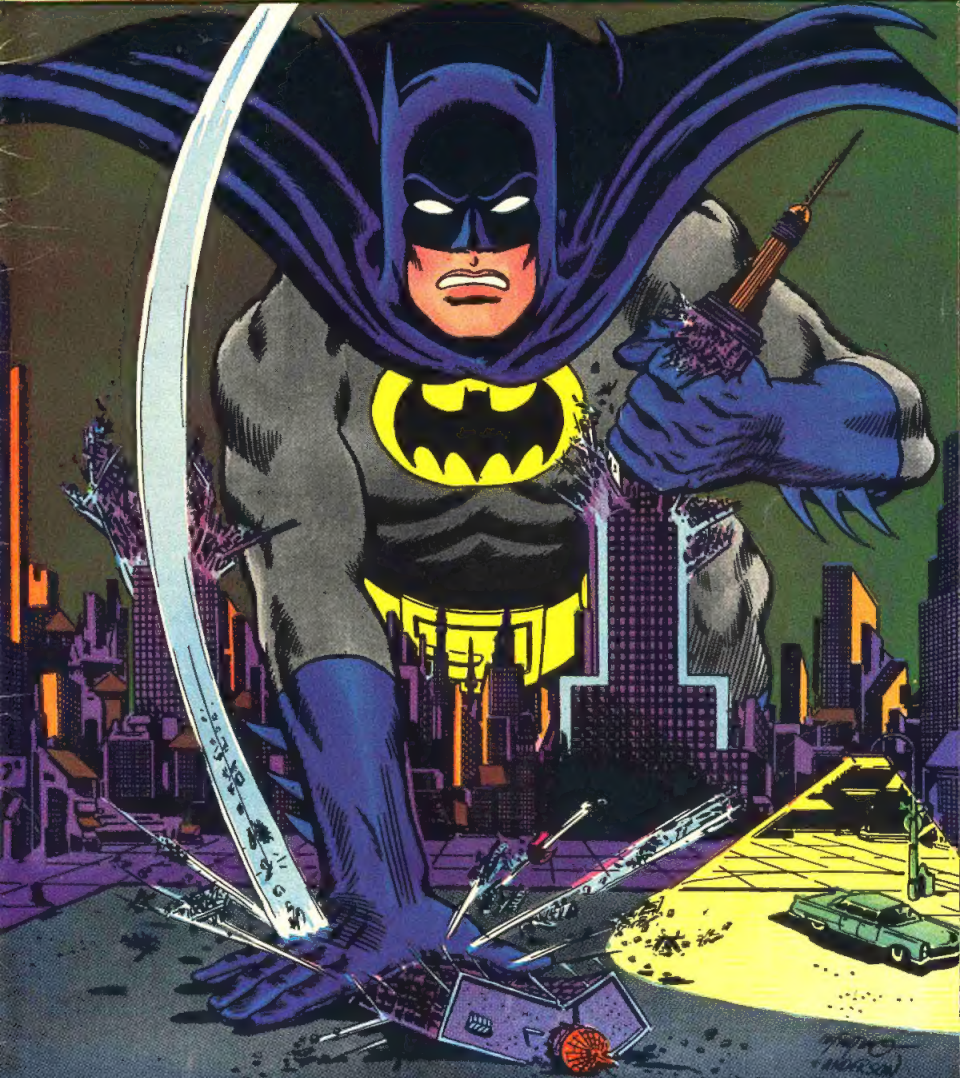


DETECTIVE COMICS

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

"THE NIGHT BATMAN DESTROYED GOTHAM CITY!"



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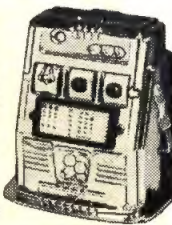
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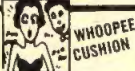
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Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victims face? It's harmless. No. 612 15c



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Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like . . . like . . . ONIONS! So funny! 12 slices to a pack. No. 281 20c

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Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless. No. 575 Only 25c

Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket-6-Power Magnifier. This exciting new 6-power wide field magnifier is cleverly concealed in a pen-sized pocket scope that lets you "peek" to your hearts content. So handy for Sporting Events, Counter-spying and Girl Watching. Also contains a 30-power full microscope to thrill any naturalist. Not a toy, but a real instrument. Full money back guarantee if not delighted. Only \$2.98 Item No. F59 \$2.98

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Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than \$1.00.
Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.

THE RIDDLER
 RILING RAMPANT
 ONCE AGAIN--
 FLINGING HIS
 CONUNDRUM
 CHALLENGES
 AT **BATMAN**
 AND **ROBIN**!

AND THIS TIME
 THE **PRINCE**
 OF **PUZZLERS**
 HAS A DEATH-
 DEALING TRICK
 IN STORE FOR THE
DYNAMIC DUO WHEN
 THEY SOLVE HIS WORD-
 TEASERS! IT WILL GO
 DOWN IN THE ANNALS
 OF CRIME AS--

BATMAN

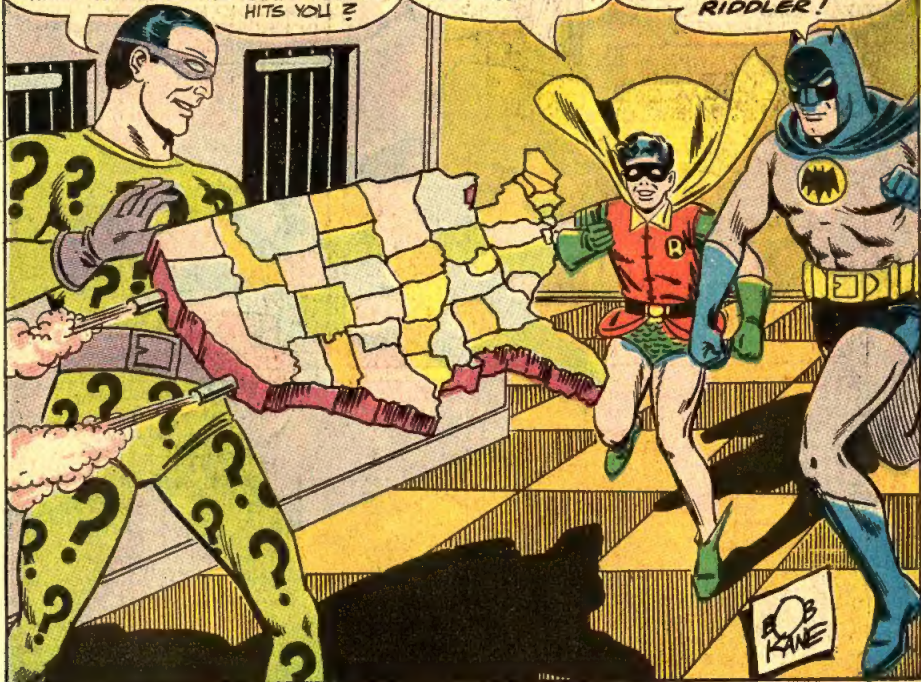
With
ROBIN
 THE
BOY WONDER

THE NIGHT BATMAN DESTROYED GOTHAM CITY!

RIDDLE ME THIS, **DYNAMIC DUO**!
 WHAT STATE ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN
 WHEN MY NAME-THE-STATE PUZZLE
 HITS YOU?!

IF YOU MEAN--
 THE **STATE**
 OF **SHOCK**--

YOU'LL BE IN A **STATE**
 OF **COLLAPSE** WHEN WE
 GET THROUGH WITH YOU,
RIDDLER!



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FOUR BAT-MOBILES SPEED TOWARD THE FINISH LINE OF A SLOT-CAR RACE OPERATED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WAYNE FOUNDATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILDREN...



BUT WHEN ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WHO IS ACTING AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES AT HOBBY HOUSE, HANDS THE WINNER HIS PRIZE...

UH--IS THIS SOME SORT OF JOKE, ROBIN? WELL, I'M NOT LAUGHING!

WHAT'S WRONG, ANGELO? HERE, LET ME SEE THAT!



UH-OH! THE RIDDLER'S BACK IN TOWN!

WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS, SMOKES A PIPE-- BUT CANNOT WALK, SEE OR TALK?



AFTER THE PROPER SCROLL HAS BEEN HANDED TO THE WINNER, ROBIN JOINING BATMAN WHO HAS BEEN AN INTERESTED SPECTATOR OF THE SLOT-CAR RACING...

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT RIDDLE, BATMAN?

NOT YET--BUT WE BETTER COME UP WITH IT FAST--OR WE'LL BE TOO LATE TO STOP THE RIDDLER FROM COMMITTING HIS CRIME!



THEIR MINDS RACE AS SWIFTLY AS THEIR LEGS AS THEY HURTLE TOWARD THE REAL BATMOBILE...

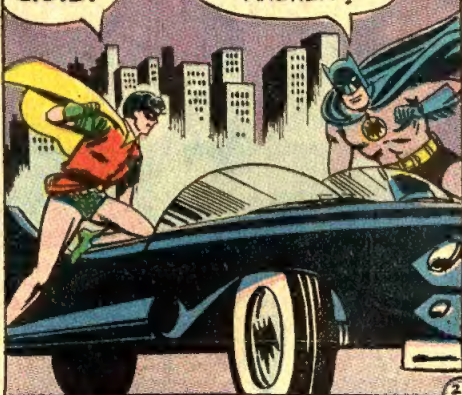
IF IT DOESN'T SEE, WALK, OR TALK, IT PROBABLY ISN'T A MAN!

YET IT SMOKES A PIPE! WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS AND A PIPE-- GOT IT!



SO HAVE I-- A STOVE!

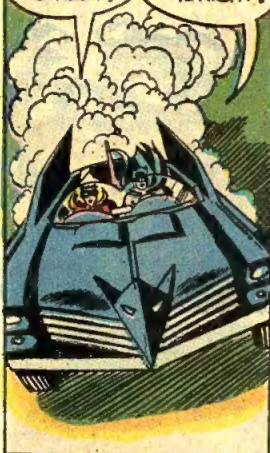
SO OBVIOUS-- ONCE YOU KNOW THE ANSWER!



**ACROSS GOTHAM CITY
FLASHES THE SLEEK
BATMOBILE...**

THERE'S A
**STOVE
INSURANCE
COMPANY**
ON SOUTH
PROSPECT
STREET!

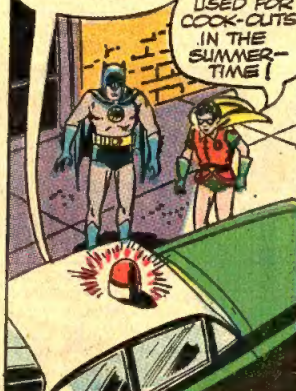
THAT'S WHERE
I'M HEAD-
ING, **ROBIN!**
IT'S PROBABLY
THE RIDDLER'S
TARGET FOR
TONIGHT!



**AT THE STOVE INSURANCE
COMPANY BUILDING, A QUICK
SEARCH OF THE PREMISES
REVEALS NOTHING. WHEN
THEY EMERGE ONTO THE
SIDEWALK...**

BATMAN! ROBIN! WE JUST
RECEIVED A RADIO CALL...
THE RIDDLER'S
JUST ROBBED
**THE GRILL
MANUFACTURING
CORPORATION!**

OHH--NO!
A **GRILL**
IS A **SMALL
STOVE**--
USED FOR
COOK-OUTS
IN THE
SUMMER-
TIME!



WE SURE FLUBBED THAT ONE!
THE RIDDLER PLAYED FAIR--
BUT WE
WEREN'T
SHARP
ENOUGH
TO COME
UP WITH
THE RIGHT
ANSWER!

HE'LL BE GIVING
US MORE RIDDLES,
ROBIN! REMEM-
BER, HE'S UNDER
A **COMULSION**
NOT TO ROB UNTIL
HE PRESENTS US
WITH A RIDDLE--
THE ANSWER TO
WHICH GIVES A
CLUE WHERE HE
WILL STRIKE!



ACROSS TOWN, IN AN ODDLY FURNISHED HOUSE...

A SPLENDID HAUL, MY **ENIGMEN**
HELPERS! BUT THE BEST PART
IS YET TO COME!

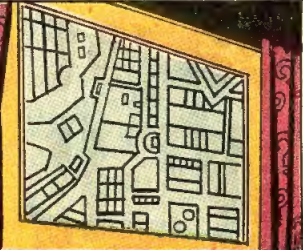


YES, THIS IS **THE RIDDLER**--
PRINCE OF PUZZLES--
EMIR OF ENIGMAS--KING
OF CONUNDRUMS!

BY MY CLEVER RIDDLES--I'M
SETTING **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**
UP FOR THE "KILL"! WHEN
THEY SOLVE MY **SECOND**
RIDDLE THEY'LL REALIZE
THERE'S A **PATTERN** TO THEM--
WHICH THEY WILL FOLLOW TO
ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION AND
INEVITABLE ENDING--THE
**DEATHS OF THE
DYNAMIC DUO!**



JUST AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** GO OUT ON THEIR NIGHTLY PATROLS--SO SHALL I! I'LL HUNT DOWN THAT DUO OF DO-GOODERS AND PRESENT THEM WITH MY SECOND PUZZLER! I JUST HOPE THEY GET THE **POINT!**
HA HA HA!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AT A SHIP MODEL DISPLAY IN THE **GOTHAM CITY COLISEUM...**



THIS MEDIEVAL SHIP WAS MADE FOR A DAUPHIN OF FRANCE! IT'S PRICELESS...

OKAY, NAUTICAL LOVERS... DON'T NOBODY MOVE!



INTO THE SUDDEN FALL OF SILENCE-- TWO GRIMLY GARBED FIGURES DASH IN...

IT'S A GOOD THING WE TOOK TIME OFF FROM OUR REGULAR PATROL TONIGHT-- TO STOP IN HERE WITH A MODEL OF THE **BAT-BOAT** FOR DISPLAY!

LOOKS AS IF WE'RE GOING TO PUT ON A DISPLAY OURSELVES!



I GOT YOU, JUNIOR--!

YOU COULDN'T GET A CHILL IN A BLIZZARD!

BAM!



I CALL THIS MY HEELS-OVER-HEAD SPECIAL... OR, A HEEL FOR A HEEL-- OR, WHAT'S A HEAD TO A HEEL?



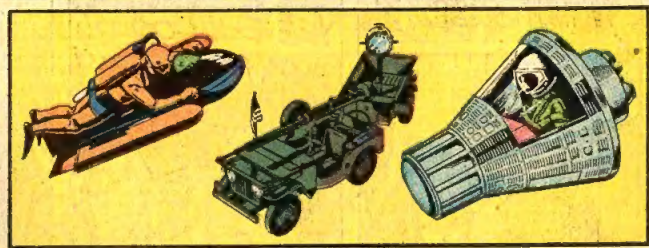
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capture hill 79

WIN!

A MOUNTAIN OF PRIZES OVER...

14,000

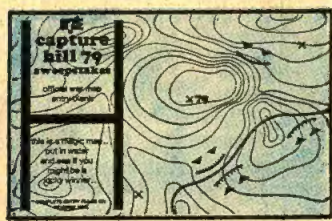


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Simply visit your nearest GI JOE® store, see all the new GI JOE® things and pick up a magic war map . . . you have two chances to win . . . a mountain of prizes including a footlocker full of money, 1000 GI JOE® Space Capsules and Space Suits, 2000 GI JOE® Sea Sleds and 1000 GI JOE® Army Jeeps . . . plus a chance to win one of 10,000 GI JOE® Capture Hill 79™ Games. Over 14,000 prizes in all . . . and you can enter as often as you like.



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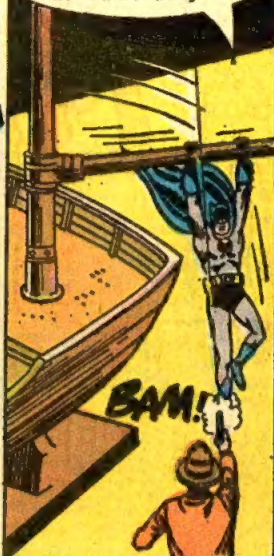
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TO ONE SIDE OF THE **TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT**, THE **CAPIED CRUSADER** IS EXPLODING LIKE A SMALL MEGATON BOMB...

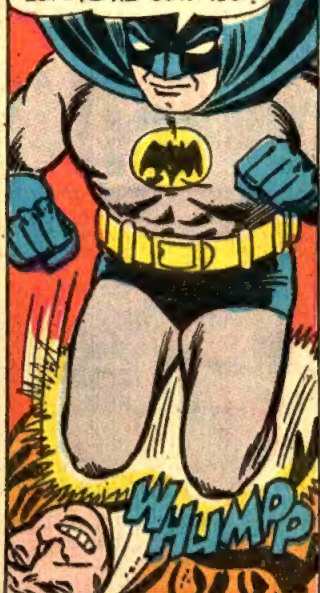
NONE OF THOSE FANCY FRILLS FOR ME, **ROBIN!** I PREFER A ROCK 'EM, SOCK 'EM APPROACH!



OH, SOMETIMES I ADMIT TO HAMMING IT UP LIKE THIS--WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT A BIT OF DIPSY-DO!



BUT IT ALL COMES BACK TO GETTING YOUR MAN BEFORE HE GETS YOU!

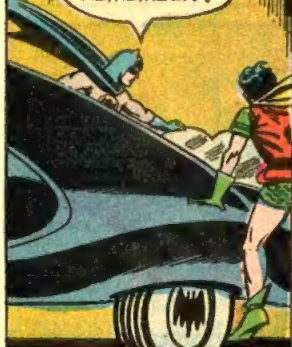


AFTER THE THWARTED THIEVES ARE TURNED OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES...

WELL, BACK TO THE QUIET OF **GOTHAM CITY** TRAFFIC, **ROBIN!**

I JUST HOPE WE SPOT THE **RIDDLER** TONIGHT!

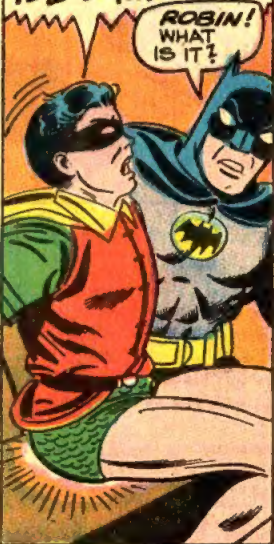
NOT LIKELY! HE HAS TO "**RIDDLE**" US FIRST, REMEMBER?



NORMALLY, THE SEAT CUSHIONS CATCH THE VAULTING **BOY WONDER** NEATLY, BUT TONIGHT...

YEE-E-III-OOOO!

ROBIN! WHAT IS IT?



SOME WISE GUY PUT A **TACK** ON MY SEAT! BOY, IF I EVER FIND OUT WHO DID IT--

WAIT, **ROBIN!** DON'T THROW THAT **TACK** AWAY!



THE RIDDLER PROPOUNDS HIS PUZZLES IN STRANGE WAYS! YES--HERE IT IS--ON THE TACK'S HEAD--ENLARGED UNDER THE POWERFUL LENS OF THE BAT-MAGNIFIER--A RIDDLE! "WHAT WORD OF FIVE LETTERS HAS ONLY ONE WHEN TWO LETTERS ARE TAKEN AWAY?"

AH-- I KNOW THAT ONE ALL RIGHT! STONE!

RIGHT, ROBIN! TAKE S AND T AWAY-- AND YOU HAVE ONE LEFT! BUT WHERE DOES THE CLUE LEAD US...

TO THE P.J. STONE BROKERAGE OUTFIT!

NOT SO FAST, ROBIN! THE RIDDLER IS A VERY TRICKY FELLOW! FOR INSTANCE...

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT YOU ARE BEING SINGLED OUT TO GET THE RIDDLES? IT'S NO COINCIDENCE, I'LL BET! THEN WHY--WAIT! YOU'RE A SMALL VERSION OF ME--JUST AS A GRILL WAS A SMALL VERSION OF A STOVE...

HOLY HINTS! WE OUGHT TO LOOK FOR A SMALL VERSION OF A STONE! LIKE A PEBBLE! THERE'S A PEBBLE BEACH FUN HOUSE! COULD THAT BE IT?

BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE COOKING ON ALL BURNERS NOW! BUT THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THEIR WONDER WITS ARE DESIGNED TO DOOM THEM--WHEN THEY SOLVE ALL THE RIDDLER'S RIDDLES!

STORY CONTINUES ON THE 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

There are only 28 days in February, so why not

S-T-R-E-T-C-H your fun during the shortest month with the

S-T-R-E-T-C-H-I-N-G-E-S-T hero in comics, meaning me... 2

PLASTIC MAN



NEW! FANTASTIC!

PLASTIC MAN

DO YOU WANT TO BE A HUMAN FIRE-LADDER? EH, P.M.? WELL, BANG! BANG! BANG!--YOU'RE A SPRINKLER SYSTEM, TOO!

NOW ON SALE

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

I'm back! The *Clown Prince of Criticism*, wishing to say that December's *Detective Comics*' tale, "Circle of Terror," while not terrible, was a good yarn. There were points in it that hit the right spot: the mysterious, soundless hypnotic "dreams"—the sharp contrast-play of being brought back to reality by the *Boy Wonder*—the abundance of night-scenes—and panels 5 on page 3, 5 on 3, 9 on 9, and 5 on 14 where you have the shadows weirdly cast, which I haven't seen for a while. These were in good *Batman* tradition. And the situations—keeping our "Bat" up in the night air on a huge Gothic clock, a train trestle, and a deserted amusement park. I like the subtle changes in the *Batmobile*, too, like the double-windshield and growing size and form of its front-end *Bat*-emblem.

Gentlemen, I don't mind humor and wisecracks among the characters, but when the captions try to be "cute," it tends to spoil the impact of the story. The drawing was okay, but I can't help wondering about it. I'm dreaming, now, but just imagine a *Batman* story with figures drawn by Bob Kane (who looks like the only man left who can draw *Batman* with the right "Bat"-touch), backgrounds by Carmine Infantino (who, though he makes *Batman* look like Barry Allen in a *Bat-suit*, can draw backgrounds, especially outdoor night scenes with big moons, beautifully, and with a haunting mood—when he bothers to draw backgrounds), and inking by Sid Greene (who's probably DC's best inker). That truly might be something to see!

I can't go yet without a small word for *Elongated Man*. His use—in "Faker-Takers of the Baker's Dozen"—of his nose for a lasso, and his finger for a "tracer" on the bumper of that car, and those scenes in which he was complaining about all the traffic running over his elongated finger and "pinching" it, and everything else about the story left me in elongated laughter. Chalk up more victories for EM!

—Stephen Harrell, Kansas City, Mo.

(All you have to do for fulfillment of your artistic *Bat*-dream is to contact the *Spellbinder* of the "Circle of Terror" story!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Holy Midnightsun! *Detective* 358 really knocked me out! First of all, the art was very good, better than for a long time. This was Bob Kane at his very best. The *Spellbinder* costume he "dreamed up" really was extraordinary!

The story also was very good, and I suspect it was Gardner Fox who wrote it. The "New Look" *Batman* really has reached the heights with the latest issues of *Detective* and *Batman*. I especially enjoyed the way *Batman* was "spellbound" and really in mortal danger. (Is it a fact that one might die as a result of a nightmare caused by submerged fears?)

One of the things that made this *Spellbinder* so different was that he refused every chance to kill *Batman* the usual way; he was a mental murderer, and a very dangerous one, because, as he said, "Nobody would be able to prove things." *Batman* had *Robin* to thank that he survived their first meeting, and his own ability to think clearly, even

in the most dangerous situations, saved him the last time.

A last word on the *Elongated Man* story. I think Sid Greene did a good job, and honestly I prefer those guest artists. The style, dubbed by a reader, "Infantino caricature", is in my opinion not good enough for a DC Comic. If Infantino is going to continue as the regular EM artist, get Giella, Greene, or Anderson to do the inking.

—Carl Ole Carlsen, Bergen, Norway.

(John Broome did the *Batman* script on "Circle of Terror." As you'll note, Infantino has resumed the *Elongated Man* pencilling in this issue—with Sid Greene adding his fine inking touch. As for fear-dreams causing a person to die in his sleep, see next letter.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I noticed that in your December *Detective Comics*—introducing the *Spellbinder*—it was stated that people have been known to die in reality when they dream of dying in their dreams. Well, if they died—how would anyone know that they died of such bad dreams?

—Jeffrey Wong, Honolulu, Hawaii.

(A darn good question—but darned if we know the answer!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

All the *Spellbinder* had to do was spin a cart-wheel to produce a beguiling, mesmerizing pattern. Well, mine private eyes have detected another thing which has produced beguiling, mesmerizing patterns—your very own *Detective Comics*! I found your May and June issues only fair, while your July and August issues were very good. September was again bad, while October was again good. Your November issue's cover had portended a good story while the story content again was bad, while the October cover portended a bad story, while the story was surprisingly good!

That brings me to the reason for my letter, finally. The *Spellbinder* was very good and a more that adequate adversary for our *Batman*. He deserves more than one return match with the *Caped Crusader*. A future idea for a *Batman*-vs. *Spellbinder* story could be one in which he is fighting his old foes such as the *Signalman* and the *Blue Bowman* to find out how *Batman* would solve the situations brought forth in the hallucination and present the same situation to *Batman*, but beforehand eliminating the solution that *Batman* had conveniently found.

Praise be Sid Greene whose art graced the pages of the *Elongated Man* story. His rendition of the villain, Bolton Hume, not only had pegged the part of but looked like the master villain of the screen, Vincent Price. I'm sorry to say that other than this excellent rendition, the art was merely mediocre. After having tasted the EM art of the master, Murphy Anderson, nothing could be found more to my liking.

—Neil Telafor, Bronx, N.Y.

(For further *Bat*comments on the December, 1966 *Detective Comics*, turn to the EXTRA *Batman's Hot-Line* further on in this issue!—Editor)

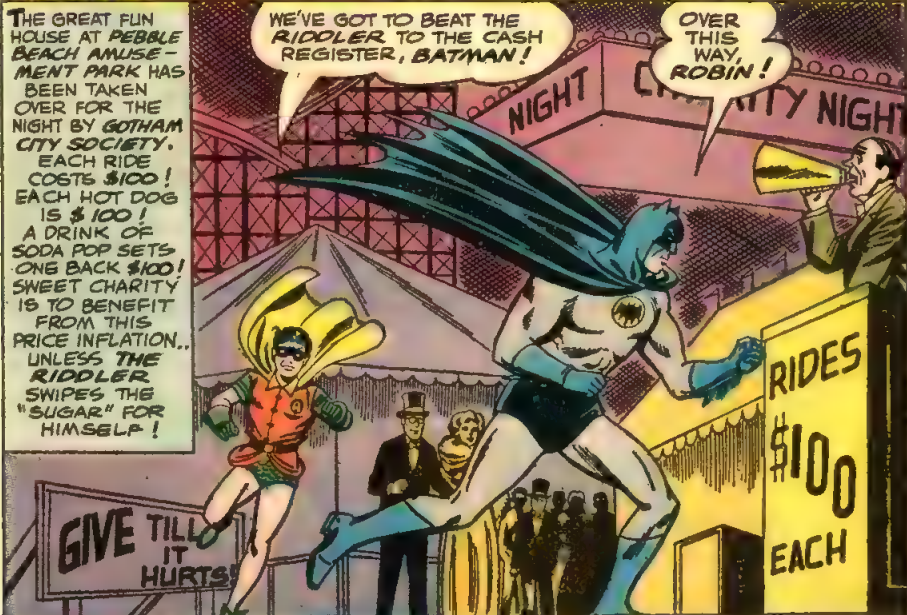
THE NIGHT BATMAN DESTROYED GOTHAM CITY!--PART 2

THE GREAT FUN HOUSE AT PEBBLE BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER FOR THE NIGHT BY GOTHAM CITY SOCIETY.

EACH RIDE COSTS \$100! EACH HOT DOG IS \$100! A DRINK OF SODA POP SETS ONE BACK \$100! SWEET CHARITY IS TO BENEFIT FROM THIS PRICE INFLATION.. UNLESS THE RIDDLER SWIPES THE "SUGAR" FOR HIMSELF!

WE'VE GOT TO BEAT THE RIDDLER TO THE CASH REGISTER, BATMAN!

OVER THIS WAY, ROBIN!



AS THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS SEES HIS ARCH-FOES BEARING DOWN ON HIM...

YOU TWO? BUT MY RIDDLE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO LEAD YOU HERE!

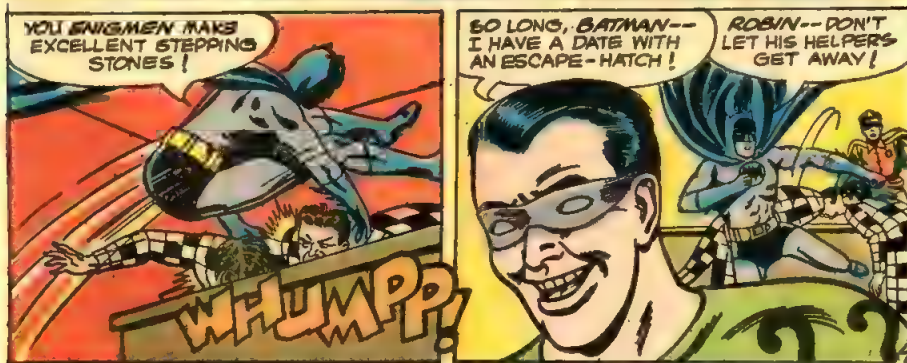
WE THOUGHT SMALL--INSTEAD OF BIG--AS YOU INTENDED, RIDDLER!



YOU ENIGMEN MAKE EXCELLENT STEPPING STONES!

SO LONG, BATMAN-- I HAVE A DATE WITH AN ESCAPE-HATCH!

ROBIN-- DON'T LET HIS HELPERS GET AWAY!



THE BOY WONDER IS A POEM IN MOTION ...

HICKORY, DICKERY DOCK--
THE MOUSE RAN UP THE CLOCK ...



THE CLOCK STRUCK ONE--
ROBIN'S WORK IS DONE!

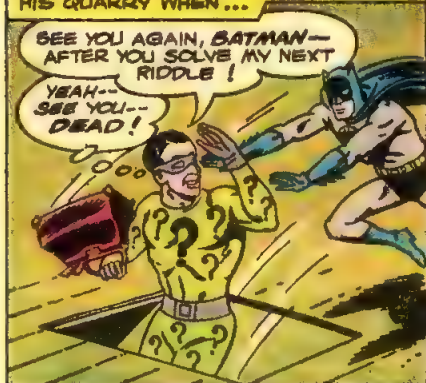
UPPFF!



CLOSING IN ON THE FLEEING RIDDLER,
BATMAN IS A MERE STEP BEHIND
HIS QUARRY WHEN ...

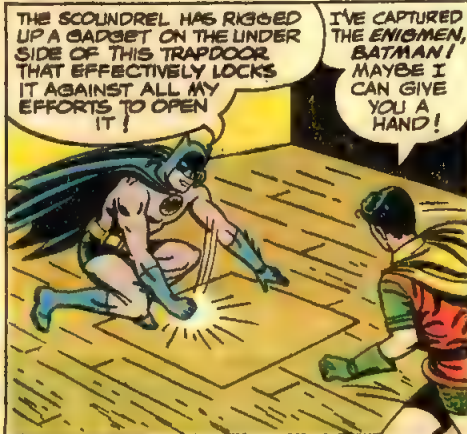
SEE YOU AGAIN, BATMAN--
AFTER YOU SOLVE MY NEXT
RIDDLE!

YEAH--
SEE YOU--
DEAD!



THE SCOUNDREL HAS RIGGED
UP A GADGET ON THE UNDER
SIDE OF THIS TRAPDOOR
THAT EFFECTIVELY LOCKS
IT AGAINST ALL MY
EFFORTS TO OPEN
IT!

I'VE CAPTURED
THE ENIGMEN,
BATMAN!
MAYBE I
CAN GIVE
YOU A
HAND!



AND
WHILE
THE
DYNAMIC
DUO IS
ABOVE--
THE
RIDDLER
ROCKETS
DOWN A
LONG
CHUTE
BELOW...

THE CHUTE WILL DROP
ME ONTO MY RIDDLE--
CYCLE! I'LL BE LONG
GONE BY THE TIME
BATMAN MANAGES
TO RAISE THAT
TRAP DOOR!

HA!
HA! HA!



EVEN AS THE **PRINCE OF PUZZLERS** HAS PREDICTED...

Whew! IT'S NO USE! WE'D NEED AN ACETYLENE TORCH TO OPEN THIS THING!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ROBIN! BY THIS TIME-- OUR TRICKY FOX IS HOME FREE!

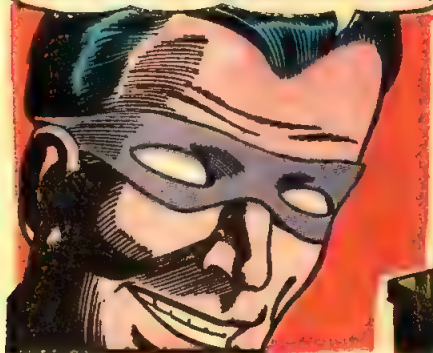


AS A PRECAUTION, EVERY GUEST WAS GIVEN STAGE MONEY TONIGHT! AS HE USED IT, HE SIGNED HIS NAME ON EACH HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL--TO BE REDEEMED LATER WITH LEGAL TENDER!

PRETTY NEAT IDEA! I'LL BET THE RIDDLER WILL BE GNASHING HIS CHOPPERS WHEN HE FINDS THAT WORTHLESS LOOT!



WHEN I GIVE THEM MY THIRD AND LAST--FOR THEM--RIDDLE, THEY'LL HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THEIR DEATHTRAP--LEAVING ME FREE AND CLEAR TO MAKE OFF WITH A COOL MILLION DOLLARS IN REAL BANK MONEY!



WHAT BURNS ME UP IS-- HE GOT CLEAN AWAY WITH A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS!

NOT REALLY! IT WAS ONLY **STAGE** MONEY THE RIDDLER STOLE!



HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

ON THE CONTRARY, BOY WONDER, THE RIDDLER IS PRETTY HAPPY RIGHT NOW, BECAUSE...

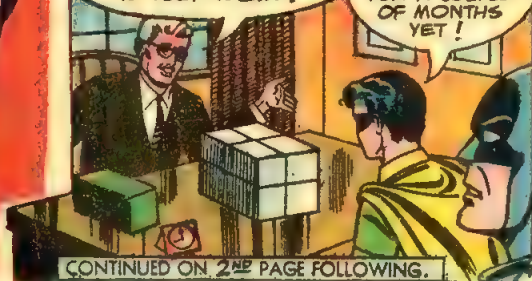
BATMAN AND ROBIN RECOGNIZED HIS RIDDLE PATTERN--OR THEY'D NEVER HAVE SHOWN UP TO-NIGHT! AHA! I DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS PHONY DOUGH! MY PAY--OFF ON THE NEXT RIDDLE WILL BE THE BIGGEST OF MY CAREER!



AND SO--THE FOLLOWING NIGHT AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS--WHERE THE MASKED MANHUNTERS HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BY A HOT-LINE CALL...

THIS PACKAGE WAS FOUND ON THE FRONT STEPS ADDRESSED PERSONALLY TO YOU, ROBIN!

WHO CAN BE SENDING ME GIFTS? MY BIRTHDAY ISN'T FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS YET!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

NEWS of
THE YEAR--

**The 80 pg. GIANT
FLASH for 1967!**

SPOTLIGHTED
IN THIS
ISSUE'S
ROGUES'
GALLERY
LINE-UP—



**"The TOP!"
"ABRA KADABRA!"
The MIRROR-MASTER!
"SUPER-GORILLA
GRODD!"**

THE MOST READER-REQUESTED
FEATURE OF THEM ALL--

"How I Draw the Flash"
by CARMINE INFANTINO!



Would You BELIEVE...

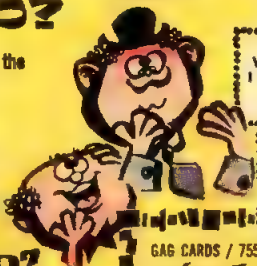
... that "Would You Believe?"
GAG CARDS
will make you a Star
of Stage, Screen & Tv? **No?**

**Would you believe they're the
World's Funniest Cards to Flash
on Friends and Relatives, at Work,
at Gatherings — a card for every
Happening, every Occasion.
No one can top you when you Flash
a "Would You Believe" Card on them.**

■ ■ ■ Would You Believe
that for \$1,000 you can have
100 cards as Funny or Funnier
then the samples shown? **NO?**

**Would You Believe 100 Cards
for only \$1? — You Better Believe It!!!**

Be the First to be in on the
"Would You Believe" Craze.
Flash them on your Friends,
Stump your Family —
Everyone will Roar!!!



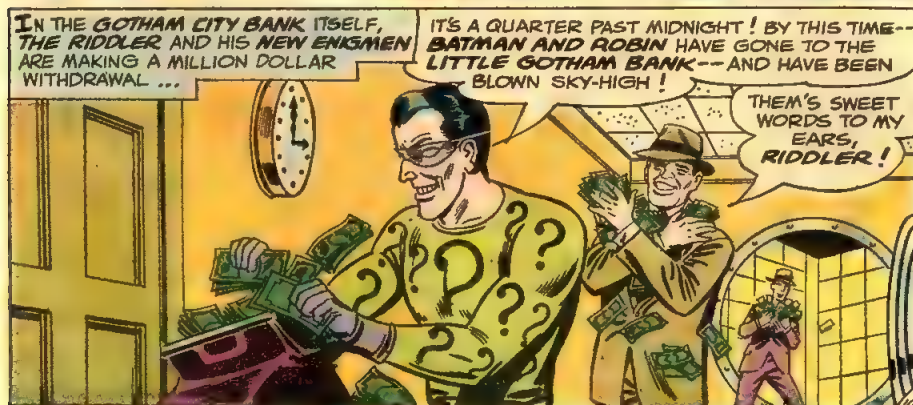
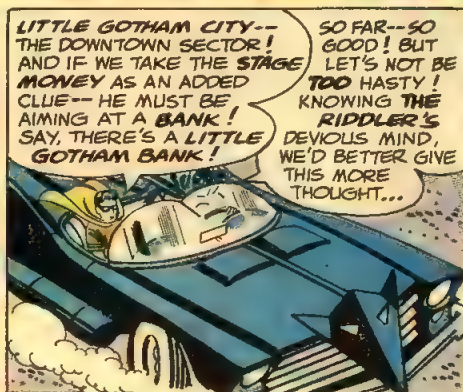
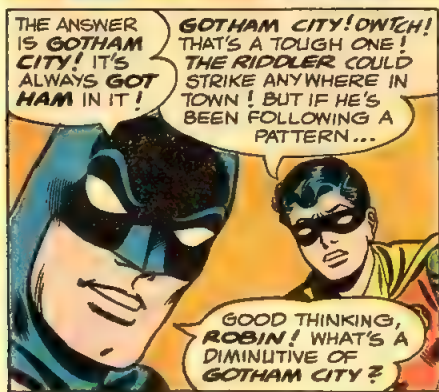
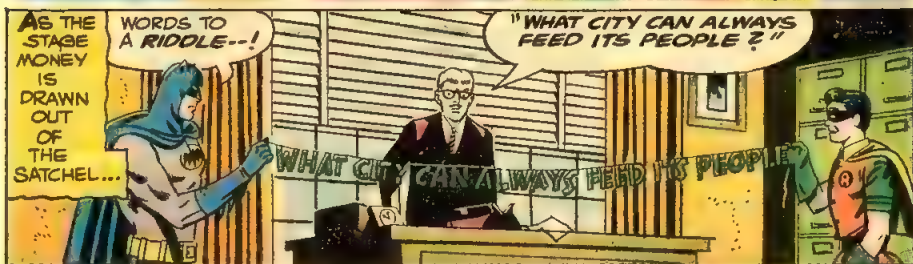
GAG CARDS / 7551 Melrose Ave., Dept. 4258, Hollywood, Calif. 90046

Yes! I Believe It! Rush my sets of 100 "Would You Believe" Gas Cards at \$1 per set. I enclose \$_____

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
☐ I enclose 25c extra for Special Rush Handling. No C.O.D.'s

Name _____

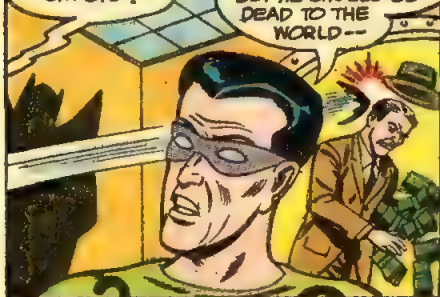
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



OUT OF THE SHADOWS SWOOPS A
BATARANG...

HERE'S A GREETING
CARD FROM A COUPLE
OF "SKY-HIGH"
GHOSTS!

R-ROBIN'S VOICE!
I'D KNOW THOSE
TEEN-AGE TONES
ANYWHERE! BUT--
BUT HE SHOULD BE
DEAD TO THE
WORLD--



YOU JUST KEEP SAYING
THAT, RIDDLER! BUT
I'M THE LIVELIEST
GHOST YOU'LL
EVER SEE!

I'LL RIDDLE YOU
TO PIECES YET!
I ALWAYS GO OUT
ON A JOB PREPARED
FOR ALL EMERGENCIES!



KEEP THEM BUSY, ENIGMEN-- LONG ENOUGH
FOR ME TO DRAW OUT MY ARSENAL OF
PERILOUS PUZZLE WEAPONS!



BATMAN, YOU WERE
RIGHT! THE RIDDLER
SET US UP FOR THE
KILL BY USING THAT
RIDDLE PATTERN OF
HIS TO RELATE TO
SMALL THINGS!

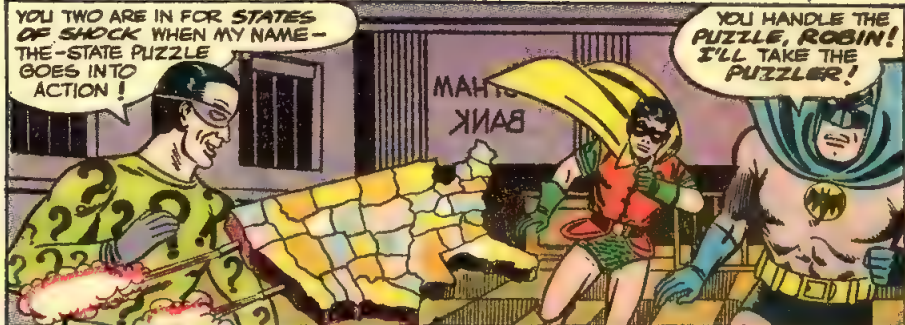
HAD WE GONE
TO THE LITTLE
GOTHAM BANK--
WE'D BE
DEAD
NOW!

BUT YOU SAID
THE RIDDLER
WASN'T TO BE
TRUSTED--SO
WE CAME HERE
INSTEAD!

I FIGURED THAT A
DEVIOUS, TWISTED
MIND--WOULD COME
UP WITH A DEVIOUS,
TWISTED SCHEME!

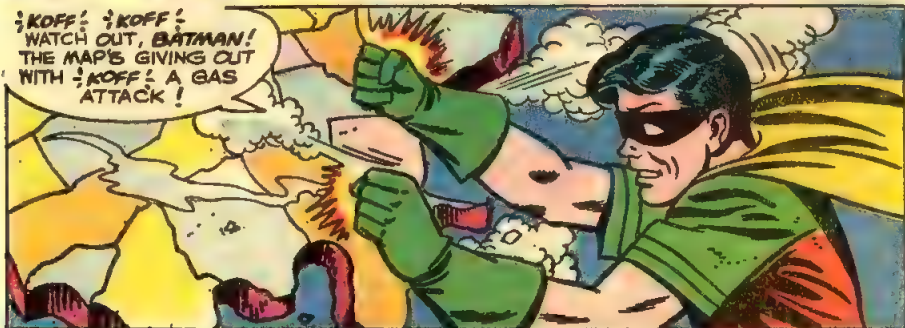


YOU TWO ARE IN FOR STATES
OF SHOCK WHEN MY NAME—
THE-STATE PUZZLE
GOES INTO
ACTION!

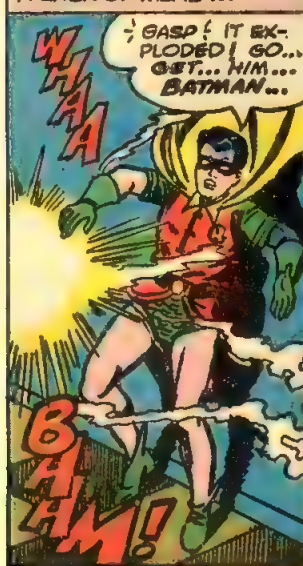


YOU HANDLE THE
PUZZLE, ROBIN!
I'LL TAKE THE
PUZZLER!

!KOFF! !KOFF!
WATCH OUT, BATMAN!
THE MAP'S GIVING OUT
WITH !KOFF! A GAS
ATTACK!



AS THE PUZZLE EXPLODES
ON IMPACT, THE BRAVE BOY
WONDER IS SLAMMED
AGAINST THE WALL LIKE
A SACK OF MEAL ...



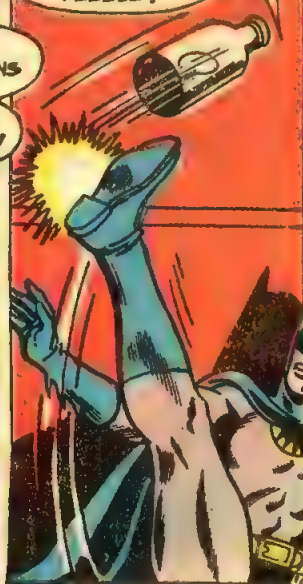
!GASP! IT EX-
PLODED! GO...
GET... HIM...
BATMAN...

MY EGG-IN-A-BOTTLE
PUZZLE WILL BLAST
YOU TO ETERNITY, BAT-
MAN! YOU AVOIDED MY
OTHER TRAP AT THE
LITTLE
GOTHAM
BANK--
BUT THIS
ONE WILL
GET YOU
SURE!



DON'T COUNT
YOUR CHICKENS
BEFORE
THEY'RE
HATCHED,
RIDDLER!

ALL YOUR TRICKY SCHEMES
ARE GOING TO PROVE AS
USELESS AS THIS
PUZZLE!





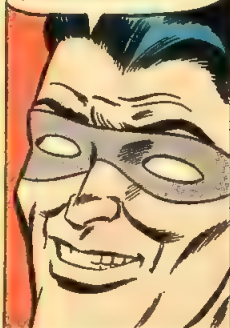
NOW,
I'LL
ATTEND
TO
ROBIN!

MOMENTS LATER, A DAZED
BOY WONDER STARES
WOZZILY DOWN AT THE
RIDDLER ...

YOU'VE CAUGHT
ME--BUT YOU HAVEN'T OUTWITTED
ME, **BATMAN!** THAT TRAP YOU
ESCAPED--STILL EXISTS! EVEN
IF YOU AREN'T THERE--IT'S
SET TO GO OFF ON ITS OWN--
DEMOLISHING ALL OF
**LITTLE GOTHAM
CITY!**



ONLY **I** KNOW WHERE
IT IS! ONLY **I** CAN
DEFUSE IT! I'LL
MAKE A DEAL! LET
ME GO AND I'LL
DEFUSE IT! REFUSE--
AND THE DEATH AND
DESTRUCTION OF
**LITTLE GOTHAM
CITY** WILL BE YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY!

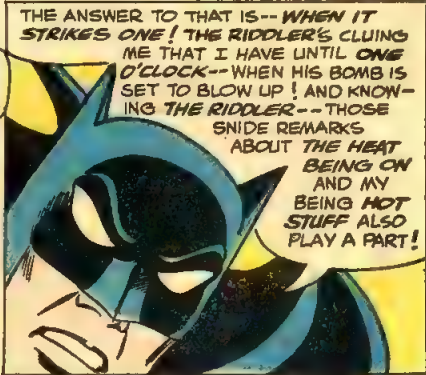


I MAKE NO
DEALS WITH
GROOKS! I'LL
DEFUSE IT
MYSELF!

HA! YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH
HOT STUFF! WELL, THE
HEAT'S ON FOR YOU, **BAT-
MAN!** ODD--I FEEL ANOTHER
COMPULSION COMING OVER ME
TO GIVE YOU A RIDDLE--CLUE--
"AT WHAT TIME BY THE
CLOCK IS A PUN MOST
EFFECTIVE?"

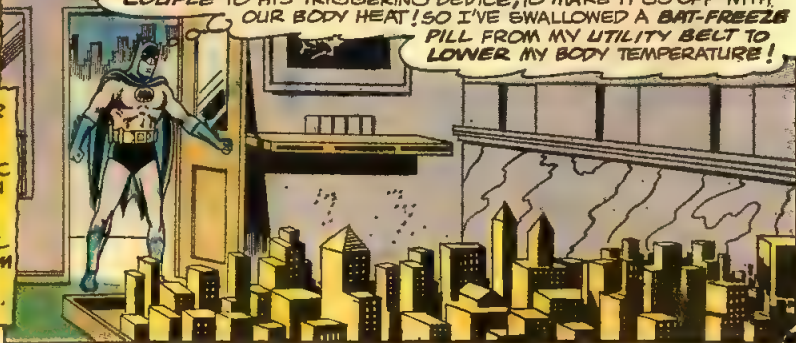
THE ANSWER TO THAT IS--**WHEN IT
STRIKES ONE!** THE RIDDLER'S CLUING
ME THAT I HAVE UNTIL **ONE
O'CLOCK--** WHEN HIS BOMB IS
SET TO BLOW UP! AND KNOW-
ING THE RIDDLER--THOSE
SNIDE REMARKS

ABOUT THE **HEAT
BEING ON**
AND MY
BEING **HOT
STUFF** ALSO
PLAY A PART!



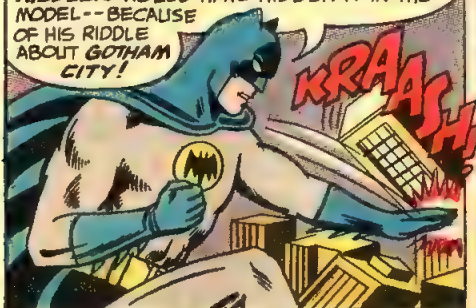
DRIVING
SWIFTLY
TO THE
**LITTLE
GOTHAM
BANK,**
THE
CAPED
CRUSADER
ENTERS
WITH AN
ELECTRONIC
SKELETON
KEY AND
STUDIES
THE MODEL
OF **GOOTHAM
CITY** ON
EXHIBIT...

THE ONLY WAY **THE RIDDLER** COULD BE CERTAIN THAT **ROBIN** AND **I**
WOULD "TRIP" HIS BOMB IS BY ATTACHING A **SENSITIVE THERMO-
COUPLE** TO HIS TRIGGERING DEVICE, TO MAKE IT GO OFF WITH
OUR BODY HEAT! SO I'VE SWALLOWED A **BAT-FREEZE
PILL** FROM MY UTILITY BELT TO
LOWER MY BODY TEMPERATURE!



LIKE BOLIATH, THE MASKED MANHUNTER
EXPLODES INTO DESTRUCTIVE FURY...

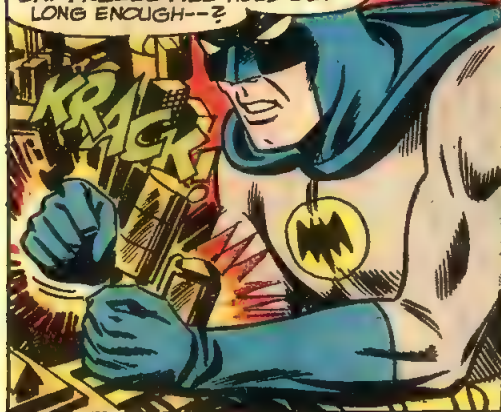
I'M TEMPORARILY SAFEGUARDED FROM BLOW-
ING UP THE BOMB BY BODY HEAT--BUT I
HAVE NO TIME TO SEARCH FOR THE BOMB!
RIDDLER WOULD HAVE HIDDEN IT IN THE
MODEL--BECAUSE
OF HIS RIDDLE
ABOUT GOTHAM
CITY!



NOW FOR THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT!
TALK ABOUT YOUR WALL STREET
CRASHES!



THE HARDER I WORK, THE MORE MY BODY
TEMPERATURE GENERATES HEAT! WILL MY
BAT-FREEZE PILL HOLD OUT
LONG ENOUGH--?



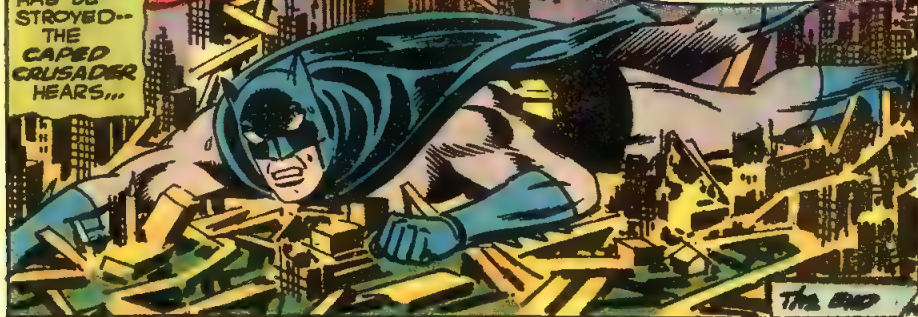
I'LL THROW MY WHOLE BODY INTO
THIS ONE! AND--MY FIST--TO
DESTROY "WAYNE MANOR"!



PANTING--
COLLAPSED
OVER THE
CITY HE
HAS DE-
STROYED--
THE
CAPED
CRUSADER
HEARS...

BONNGG!

ONE O'CLOCK AND ALL'S WELL!
I'VE DESTROYED "GOTHAM
CITY! AND AS ROBIN MIGHT
ADD--WHAT A BOMB!!



THE END

STORY BY
GARDNER FOX

The ELONGATED Man

ART BY
CARMINE INFANTINO
&
SID GREENE

SILVER BLAZE WAS A MOUNTED POLICE HORSE-- BUT MORE THAN THAT, HE WAS A CROOK-CATCHER AS WELL! AND BECAUSE OF HIS UNIQUE TALENT, HIS VERY LIFE WAS THREATENED BY GUNS OF THE UNDER-WORLD! AND WHEN THE ELONGATED MAN TOOK A HAND IN THE CURIOUS CASE OF A MISSING MOUNTED PATROLMAN, HE FOUND A WAY TO USE THE ASTONISHING ABILITIES OF...

THE HORSE THAT HUNTED HOOBS

NOW TALK--
TELL ME AND
SILVER BLAZE
WHAT YOU DID
WITH HIS
MASTER,
OFFICER
BARKER!

THAT'S YOUR LAST
STUNT, ELONGATED
MAN! YOU'RE
GONNA END UP
STRETCHED OUT
ON A SLAB!



THE THUNDERING POUND OF HOOPS ON A QUIET CITY STREET STARTLES RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIBNY AND HIS WIFE SUE...

HELP! THAT HORSE--CHASING ME! SOMEBODY HELP--

IT'S COMING FROM AROUND THE CORNER, RALPH! DO YOUR STUFF--!

**GLOP!
GLOP!**

THE CORNER IS FIFTY FEET AWAY-- "INCHES" AWAY TO A MAN WHO CAN ELONGATE HIS BODY A HUNDRED YARDS IN THE WINK OF AN EYE!...

LOOKS LIKE A RUNAWAY HORSE! I'LL GIVE THAT POOR FELLOW A HAND!

BUT EVEN AS HE STRETCHES OUT AN ARM...

THAT'S THE THIEF, OFFICERS--THE ONE WHO JUST ROBBED MY JEWELRY STORE!

SILVER BLAZE HAS DONE IT AGAIN! WHILE I WAS TICKETING AN ILLEGALLY PARKED CAR, HE MADE HIS SIXTH ARREST!

HUH?!

I'M INNOCENT! YOU'RE NOT GONNA TAKE THAT FOOL HORSE'S WORD AGAINST MINE, ARE YOU? I DIDN'T STEAL A THING!

SILVER BLAZE DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES--AND HERE'S THE STOLEN JEWELRY TO PROVE IT!

I'LL MARCH THIS ONE OFF TO HEAD-QUARTERS, ED!

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR BEAT, JOE. WITH THE BLAZER AT MY SIDE, IT'S LIKE HAVING A REAL DETECTIVE TO HELP ME!

WITH ALL THEIR MOTOR-CYCLES AND PROWL CARS, WHY DO THE POLICE STILL BOTHER TO USE HORSES, RALPH?

POLICE HORSES SERVE A MOST USEFUL FUNCTION, HONEY! THEY'RE TRAINED TO HANDLE CROWDS, ESPECIALLY AT PARADES OR RIOTS--AND THEY COVER MANY TIMES AS MUCH GROUND AS DOES A MAN ON FOOT, THEY EVEN CATCH RUNAWAYS ON THE CITY BRIDLE PATHS!

BUT I NEVER HEARD OF A HORSE DETECTIVE BEFORE! OFFICER, HAS THAT HORSE REALLY MADE SIX ARRESTS-- ALL ON HIS OWN?

HE SURE HAS! **SILVER BLAZE**-- NAMED FOR THE HORSE IN A **SHERLOCK HOLMES** STORY-- IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT! HE HAS A SORT OF SIXTH SENSE FOR APPREHENDING CRIMINALS...

HIS REGULAR RIDER--**JIM BARKER**--CALLS IT "HORSE SENSE"! JIM BELIEVES A CROOK IS SO TENSE AFTER A ROBBERY THAT HIS BODY GIVES OFF A SPECIAL SCENT THAT THE **BLAZER** RECOGNIZES-- THE WAY DOGS DETECT THE FEAR-SCENT OF SOMEONE AFRAID OF THEM!



SAY, I'D SURE LIKE TO MEET THIS OFFICER **BARKER**--

SO WOULD ALL OF US! BUT-- HE'S DIS-APPEARED! UH--

OH! LOOK AT THAT NOSE GO! WHENEVER IT GETS THE SCENT OF A STRANGE MYSTERY, IT DOES THE FRUG!

YESTERDAY, WHILE JIM WAS RIDING TRAFFIC DETAIL ON **SILVER BLAZE** AT SEVENTH AND MAIN--THERE WAS A BANK ROBBERY! JIM TOOK AFTER THE CROOKS--AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE!

THEN LET'S DO SOMETHING TO FIND HIM-- STARTING BY GIVING **SILVER BLAZE** A BIG PUBLICITY BUILD-UP AS AN EQUINE SLEUTH! IN THAT WAY...

AND SO, AN HOUR LATER, AFTER RALPH HAS DONNED HIS **ELONGATED MAN** COSTUME...

SIX ARRESTS FOR **SILVER BLAZE**? TERRIFIC! THIS WILL MAKE THE FIRST PAGE OF OUR **BULLDOG EDITION**!

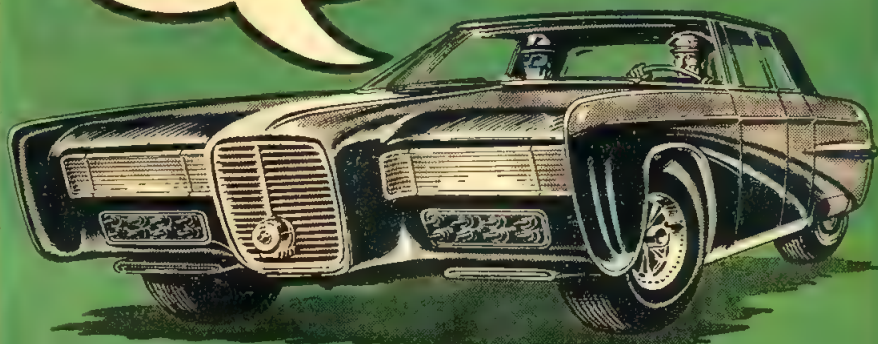
I HOPE THE BANK ROBBERIES FALL FOR THIS! I HAVE NOTHING TO BASE IT ON, BUT I THINK THEY OVER-POWERED AND CAPTURED OFFICER **BARKER**!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

*Here comes the Green Hornet's
"BLACK BEAUTY"*

"FASTER, KATO!"



The Official Hobby Kit by Aurora!

It's long...sleek...jet black...and deadly. It's that fantastic vehicle — the "Black Beauty" — the car the crime-crushing Green Hornet and karate expert Kato drive on T.V. Now you can build the Aurora model! Made in $\frac{1}{2}$ scale, it's parked where you got those other great Aurora car kits... the Batmobile and the Super Spy Car... and it costs less than a dollar! Better get buzzing and get it! **98¢**

Models can be painted as shown. Kits do not include paint or cement.

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IN AN OLD WAREHOUSE
WHICH THE BANK BANDITS
HAVE MADE THEIR HIDE-
OUT...

HEY--GET A LOAD
OF THIS!" HORSE COP
CATCHES JEWEL THIEF!
USES HORSE SENSE TO
TRACK DOWN CULPRIT!"
OH-OH--WE'RE
IN TROUBLE--!



THE POLICE
HAS ASSIGNED
THAT CROOK-
CATCHING
HORSE TO
TRACK DOWN
YESTERDAY'S
BANK ROB-
BERS! THE
MOUNTED COP
WE GRABBED
IS HIS HORSE!



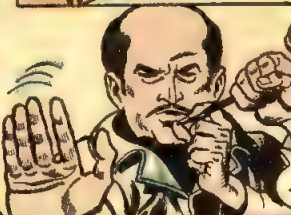
ARE YOU
TRYIN' TO
TELL US
THAT
WONDER
HORSE
WILL BE
ABLE TO
TRACK US
HERE?
WHAT A
LAUGH!

DON'T FORGET
THE HORSE SAW
US! THE "HORSE-
LAUGH" WILL
BE ON US IF HE
SNIFFS HIS WAY
HERE! WHY
TAKE CHANCES--
LET'S GET
OUTA HERE!

DON'T
LISTEN
TO HIM,
BOSS!
WE'VE
SPENT
TOO MUCH
TIME
SETTIN'
UP THE
ROBBERIES
IN THIS
TOWN TO JUNK
THEM BECAUSE
OF A DUMB
ANIMAL!



I SAY--
LET'S
SCRAM!



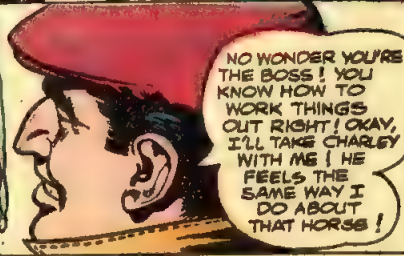
PIPE DOWN,
THE TWO OF YA!

I SAY--
LET'S
STAY
PUT!

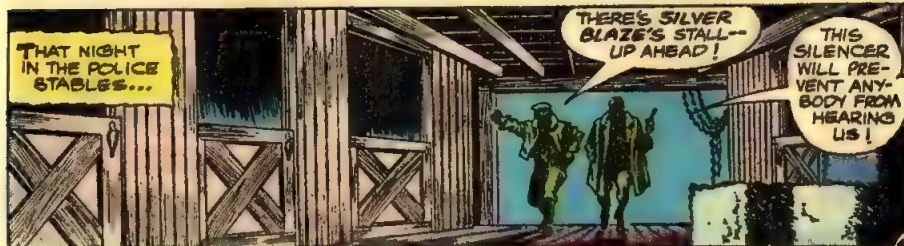
THERE'S AN EASY
WAY TO HANDLE
THIS, JO-JO! YOU
THINK THAT HORSE
DETECTIVE CAN
TRACK US DOWN?
THEN GO SHOOT
HIM--STOP HIM
DEAD!



NO WONDER YOU'RE
THE BOSS! YOU
KNOW HOW TO
WORK THINGS
OUT RIGHT! OKAY,
I'LL TAKE CHARLEY
WITH ME! HE
FEELS THE
SAME WAY I
DO ABOUT
THAT HORSE!

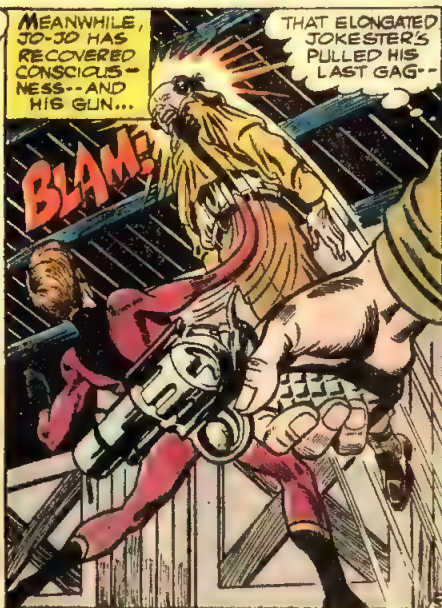
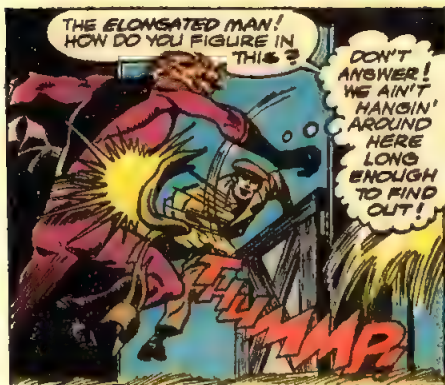


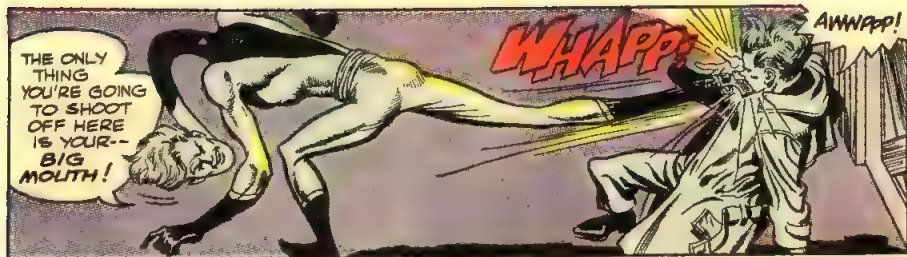
THAT NIGHT
IN THE POLICE
STABLES...



THERE'S SILVER
BLAZE'S STALL--
UP AHEAD!

THIS
SILENCER
WILL PRE-
VENT ANY-
BODY FROM
HEARING
US!





THE ONLY
THING
YOU'RE GOING
TO SHOOT
OFF HERE
IS YOUR--
BIG
MOUTH!

WHAPP!

AHHWAPP!

AFTER THE HOODLIMS ARE BROUGHT IN
TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS ...

YOU GUYS WALKED RIGHT
INTO OUR TRAP BY TRYING
TO KILL SILVER BLAZE!
NOW--WHERE'S HIS
MASTER, OFFICER
BARKER ?

YOU
EXPECT US TO
TELL YOU --
JUST LIKE
THAT ? GIVE
US OUR FREEDOM--
AND THE HORSE COP
GETS HIS !



WE DON'T
MAKE
DEALS WITH
CROOKS !

COME ON--LET'S BRING
THEM TO SILVER BLAZE
SO HE CAN IDENTIFY THEM
AS THE BANK ROBBERS !



AT SIGHT OF THE TWO
PRISONERS ...

WHEEE

YOU SEE ?
HE'S PINNING THE
RAP ON YOU CROOKS !

I WAS RIGHT !
THAT HORSE IS
SHARP AS A
RAZORBLADE !
THE BOSS
SHOULDA
LISTENED WHEN
I TOLD HIM TO
GET OUTTA
TOWN !

IT'S A
GOOD THING
THE POLICE
TIPPED ME
OFF THAT THE
BLAZER
WOULD
WHINNY ON
SIGNAL--AND
THEN TAUGHT
ME THE SIGNAL
ITSELF !

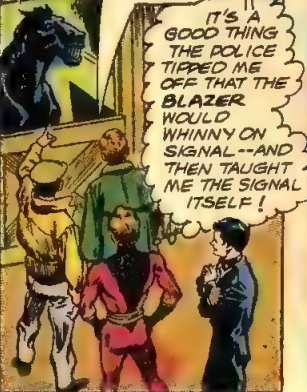
SUDDENLY... AN UNEXPECTED
DEVELOPMENT...

WHAA-
SHOOOO

HUH ?
WHAT MADE SILVER
BLAZE SNEEZE
LIKE
THAT ?

IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
SOMETHING
ABOUT THOSE
CROOKS--SOME
SCENT ADHERING
TO THEIR
CLOTHES ! I
WONDER IF--
SAY, DID
OFFICER
BARKER KEEP
ANY RECORDS
ON SILVER
BLAZE ?

SURE--
IN THE
FILE ROOM...



HERE'S THE
BLAZER'S
FILE
CARD !

I THOUGHT
SO ! IT SAYS
SILVER BLAZE
IS ALLERGIC TO
FLUORIDES !
BUT WHERE
WOULD THOSE
MEN GET
FLUORIDES
PERMEATING
THEIR
CLOTHES ?

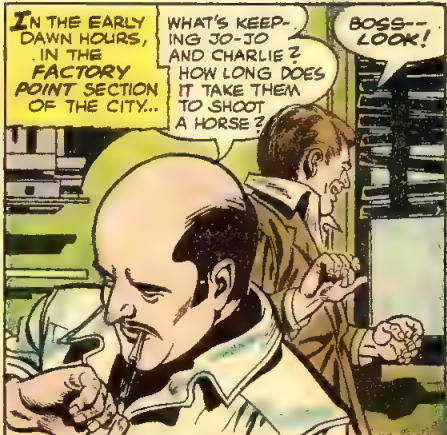
ONLY
ONE PLACE
IN TOWN--
AT FACTORY
POINT !





FACTORY POINT HAS SEVERAL PHOSPHATE PLANTS--WHICH GIVE OFF FLUORIDES! SURE, AND THAT EXPLAINS WHY JIM WOULD NEVER TAKE THE BLAZER INTO FACTORY POINT--THOSE FLUORIDE GASES WOULD MAKE HIM SICK!

WELL, I'M SURE SILVER BLAZE WOULD BE WILLING TO SUFFER SOME SICKNESS--IF IT'LL MEAN FINDING HIS MASTER! HERE'S THE SET-UP...



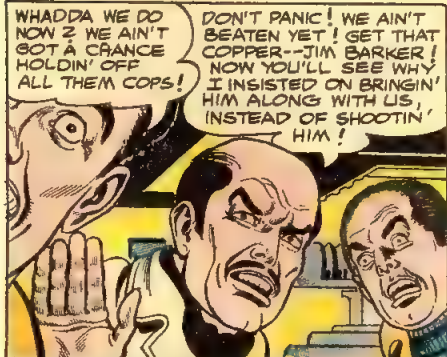
IN THE EARLY DAWN HOURS, IN THE FACTORY POINT SECTION OF THE CITY...

WHAT'S KEEPING JO-JO AND CHARLIE? HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE THEM TO SHOOT A HORSE?

BOSS--LOOK!

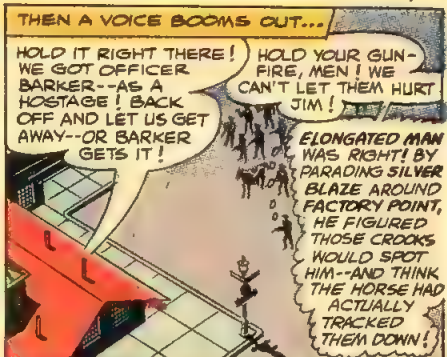


IT'S THAT HORSE DETECTIVE! JO-JO WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL! HE TRACKED US DOWN--AND HE'S GOT PLENTY OF COPS BACKIN' HIM UP!



WHADDA WE DO NOW? WE AIN'T GOT A CHANCE HOLDIN' OFF ALL THEM COPS!

DON'T PANIC! WE AIN'T BEATEN YET! GET THAT COPPER--JIM BARKER! NOW YOU'LL SEE WHY I INSISTED ON BRINGIN' HIM ALONG WITH US, INSTEAD OF SHOOTIN' HIM!

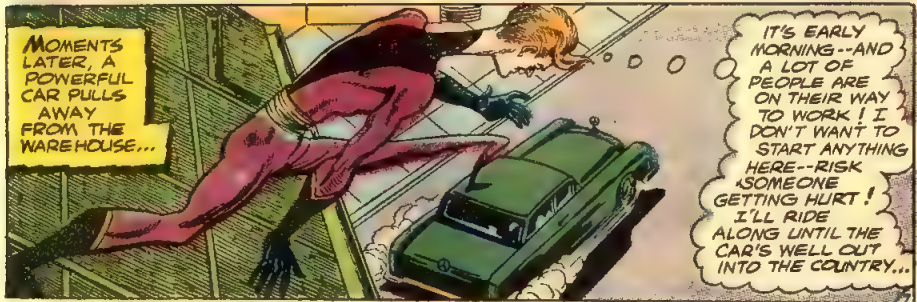


THEN A VOICE BOOMS OUT...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! WE GOT OFFICER BARKER--AS A HOSTAGE! BACK OFF AND LET US GET AWAY--OR BARKER GETS IT!

HOLD YOUR GUN-FIRE, MEN! WE CAN'T LET THEM HURT JIM!

ELONGATED MAN WAS RIGHT! BY PARADING SILVER BLAZE AROUND FACTORY POINT, HE FIGURED THOSE CROOKS WOULD SPOT HIM--AND THINK THE HORSE HAD ACTUALLY TRACKED THEM DOWN!



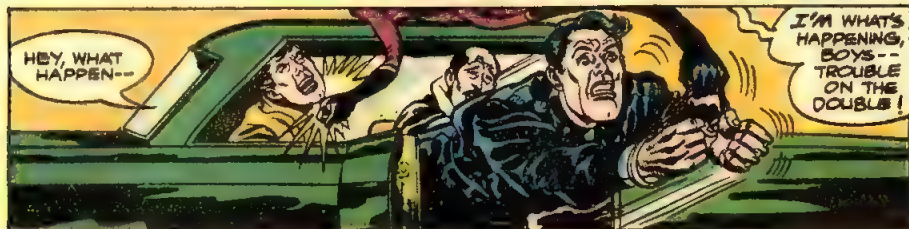
MOMENTS LATER, A POWERFUL CAR PULLS AWAY FROM THE WAREHOUSE...

IT'S EARLY MORNING--AND A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE ON THEIR WAY TO WORK! I DON'T WANT TO START ANYTHING HERE--RISK SOMEONE GETTING HURT! I'LL RIDE ALONG UNTIL THE CAR'S WELL OUT INTO THE COUNTRY...



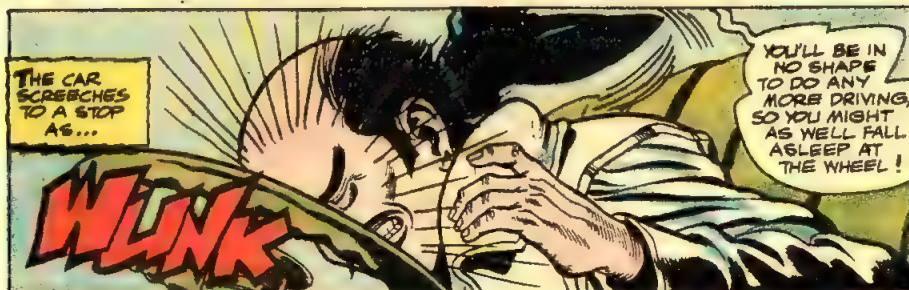
AS THE GETAWAY CAR CAREENS OUT ONTO A LONELY COUNTRY ROAD...

NOW TO SPIRIT BARKER OUT OF HARM'S WAY!



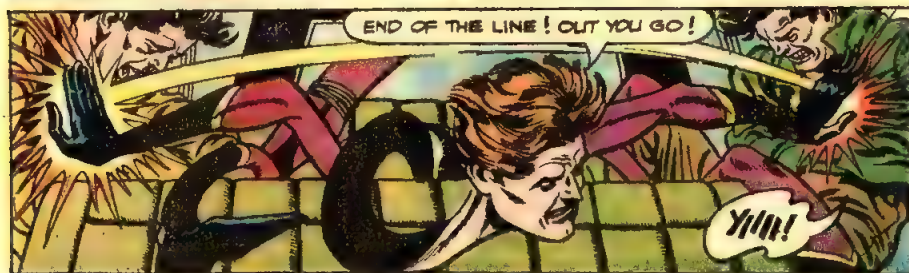
HEY, WHAT HAPPEN--

I'M WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOYS-- TROUBLE ON THE DOUBLES!



THE CAR SCREECHES TO A STOP AS...

YOU'LL BE IN NO SHAPE TO DO ANY MORE DRIVING, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL FALL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL!



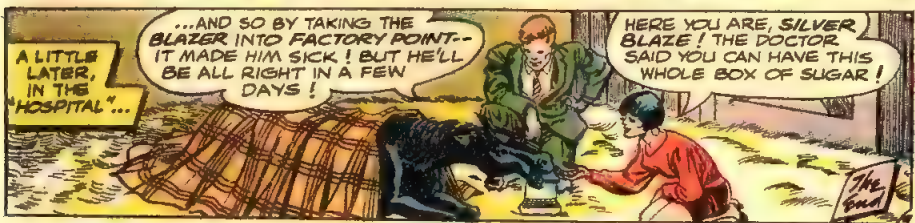
END OF THE LINE! OUT YOU GO!

YIK!



YOU'RE GOING "OUT" IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

HIS BACK IS TO ME! HE CAN'T POSSIBLY STOP ME FROM PUTTING THIS BULLET IN HIM--



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TOTAL PRICE _____
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DIRECT CURRENTS

Let's see what goodies DC has in its basket for you this month, shall we? We've been RAISIN A PEACHY crop of tasty morsels, all of which are really GRAPE stuff! So go on and read our Direct CURRENTS!

The Nazi had killed his buddy! And SGT. ROCK's finger was on the trigger! But could he shoot the enemy brass? Read "YOU CAN'T KILL A GENERAL!" OUR ARMY AT WAR, May, No. 180, on sale March 2.

The war fades into the background when a more personal feud shapes up between THE HOOD and MISS LIBERTY. Yet no matter who wins, "TOMAHAWK MUST DIE!" June issue, No. 110, on sale March 2.

You've been wanting to meet her, and now's your chance! Who? Why, "AQUALAD'S NEW GIRLFRIEND!" That's right—she makes her debut in the June AQUAMAN, No. 33, on the stands March 2.

Like a bombshell the announcement hit GOTHAM CITY! BATMAN was calling it quits—getting rid of every BAT-thing connected with his career—including ROBIN! May issue, No. 191, on sale March 7.

It would've been a field day for crooks when FLASH was stricken deaf, dumb and blind—if not for the timely appearance of the "original" FLASH, DR. FATE and DR. MIDNITE! May, No. 170, on sale March 7.

A new nemesis looms for the DOOM PATROL when ZAROX-13 streaks in to claim the universe. Also, the windup of NEG MAN's personal, powerful blo, in the May issue, No. 111, on sale March 7.

Join the NEW BLACKHAWK ERA as the MAGNIFICENT 7 face a do-or-die battle with the world terror organization whose mission is to wipe them out! May, No. 232, on sale March 9.

JERRY LEWIS is back at the BO-PEEP SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, but the beastly boys have their inning, too! This 100th issue (June) also starts a series of art mess-terpieces! On sale March 9.

A FIRST—the FUTURE SUPERMAN-BATMAN TEAM faces the fantastic super-science of their arch-foes, MUTO and the FUTURE JOKER ... in the May WORLD'S FINEST, No. 166, on sale March 9.

BATMAN'S Utility Belt—stolen! GREEN ARROW—deprived of his arrows! WONDER WOMAN'S Magic Lasso—gone! But the worst is yet to come for the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA! May, No. 53, on sale March 14.

If you dig wild beach parties, you're in for a real wing-ding when the TEEN TITANS mix it up with the college gangs at BAXTER BEACH! "THE BIG BEACH RUMBLE," June issue, No. 9, on sale March 14.

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BATMAN'S HOT-LINE -- EXTRA

Dear Editor:

I feel really proud of myself!

After reading BATMAN'S HOT-LINE in *Detective Comics* 353, and seeing someone told you about that boo-boo with an unmasked Robin . . . I thought to myself, "Now why can't I see things like that?" I had encountered this problem before, therefore I sat right down and leafed through the current issues of *Detective*, hoping to find an error.

Picking up the current issue—358—I saw that I struck pay-dirt! On pages 3, 4 and 5, there's a giant clock with the Roman numeral for four shown as IIII. I know that it's IV. Please enroll me as a member of your boo-boo finders club.

—Amado Soto, Lawndale, Cal.

(Membership denied! In clocks bearing Roman numerals, the four is traditionally inscribed as IIII. See what trivial facts you pick up by reading this mag!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

The *Spellbinder* was his name, the villain that did something that no other foe of the forces of law and order in *Gotham City* has ever been able to accomplish; strike fear in the heart of that most-hated of all of justice's stalwarts, *Batman*. In doing so with the hypnotic "Circle of Terror" in *Detective Comics* 358, he made it possible for that story and that issue to cast some spells of their own. Seldom have I ever read such a good *Batman* yarn; it rates as one of the best yet to appear under the National trademark.

I suppose what struck me most about the story was the method in which one basic, cops-and-robbers plot was made to seem like several different stories, all exciting and all hanging together beautifully. *Batman's* newly-revealed acrophobia, or is it a fear of hitting the ground rather than heights? . . . is another example of what I think is the best trend to emerge from *Batman's* "New Look" of the past twenty months: *Batman* has become a human being. No more is he the perfect Greek-like superman . . . the earth twin of his buddy from *Krypton*. When he finds that he has acrophobia he is akin to many of us non-costumed individuals who have subconscious fears ourselves. This was a neat bit and its inclusion gave the story a lot of substance upon which to build. In addition to this, I was glad to see that the *Caped Crusader* isn't a great fan of *op art*. This was a welcome-beyond-belief departure from the normal state of affairs in which the hero goes along with every new fad that happens to spring up. It was good for a change to see him detest the stuff.

I wonder—was it a coincidence that both the aforementioned *Batman* story and the terrific *Elongated Man* yarn that comprised 50% of the issue concerned art? "The Faker-Takers of the Baker's Dozen" . . . what a wild title . . . was a story in the best *EM* tradition. It was hilarious and it moved and Sid Greene drew the pencils, which in itself made the whole issue worthwhile. The last time Greene took pencil in hand was in *Mystery in Space* 91, and since I was then (and now) a fan of his I've

hoped that he wasn't becoming pencil-stale by inking all those other artists' pencils. To be truthful, I was a little surprised at the great pencil job he did. He's improved. I cast my vote for giving Sid Greene his first regular pencil-and-ink assignment since the old *Star Rover* series. By the way, it was good to see the familiar face of My Favorite Editor in panel 2 of page 2—a Greene trademark brought back from Limbo. All I have to say is: keep it out of Limbo and in DC!

—Guy H. Lillian III, Walnut Creek, Cal.

Dear Editor:

Although both stories in the December *Detective* were good, "The Faker-Takers of the Baker's Dozen" story (starring the *Elongated Man*) outshone the *Batman* yarn. Sid Greene is no Carmine Infantino, but he gives the *Elongated Man* a punch that even the reader can feel. No fooling, I could feel the pain in my fingers when a car drover over *EM's* finger on page 6. Man, that's what I call delivery!

When Infantino returns to the fold I would like to see Infantino on pencils and inks on everything but *EM*. Let Greene pencil and Infantino ink the slippery sleuth. Should be quite a scene. Those insulting remarks *EM* hurls at crooks fruitlessly on the run really break me up. The unique methods *EM* has for fighting are hilarious also—like that nose-noose and hand-grip. (*EM* is not satisfied to pick up one crook; it has to be four at a time!)

The *Batman* stories in *Detective* would be more effectual if they were just that: *Batman's* stories. I'd like to see *Batman* "go it on his lonesome" in the monthly issues. Use *Robin* in the *Batman* comic, or occasionally by himself in *Detective*. Variety is the spice of life, you know.

—Frank Tower, Eustace, Tex.

Dear Editor:

Am sorry to see the *Spellbinder* captured by the *Dynamic Duo*. Wish he had escaped instead. Sure, the bad guys are supposed to be captured in the end. But it would be a refreshing change, every once in a while, if one would escape.

Now here's a hood who—instead of bumping *Batman* off—put him under spells. First, he had him chasing a trio of burglars on a clock. Then, just like a serial, they knock him off—falling down. Next chapter, please.

Second, while another gang is making like *Jesse James*, *Batman* lands *Batcopter* atop a train. Upon tangling with them, one pushes him off down into a whirlpool! Next chapter, please. And third, a gang comes charging out from a rotating barrel like the San Diego version of the real Southern Tennessee Excursion. Pardon me, boys but is that "String of Pearls"? I'm "In The Mood" for "Little Brown Jug" and "St. Louis Blues"!

—Charles Fouts, Eulesa, Tex.

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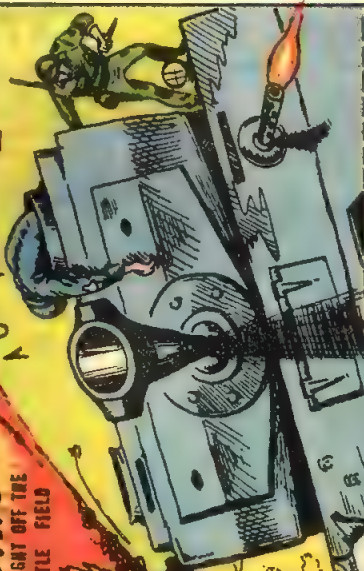
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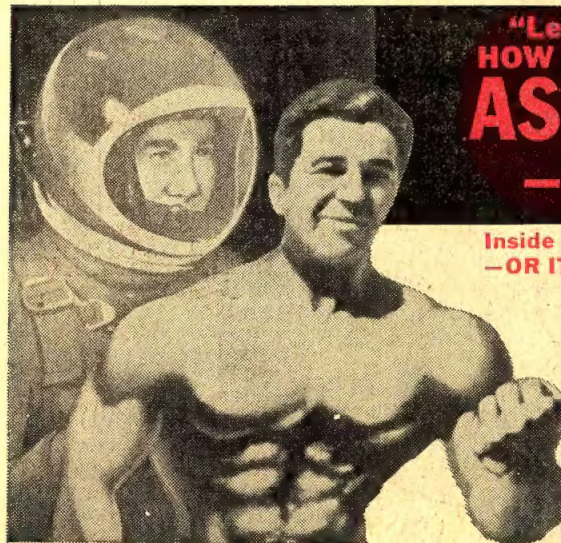
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WHICH OF MY 181,000 PUPILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

**I GAINED 60 LBS.
OF SHAPELY MIGHTY
MUSCLES**



says JOHN SILL

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST. 3 1/2 INCHES TO EACH ARM. No, Pal. You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.



**"I LOST 30 LBS.
of dangerous
UGLY FAT
4 inches off my waist!"**

says
Felipe Mendez



Which of these 2
ME'S is YOU?

What 220 lb. FAT-BOY was ME a few weeks ago. Look at him NOW! Gave him 18 INCH TY MUSCLES added 7 inches to his CHEST, 3 inches on each arm! No! I don't care how fat and flabby you are. All I want is minutes a day in your home to make you over by the same method.

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